

In the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method of operating a computing device, the method comprising, in response to a request from a user to carry out an operation using the device and for which the identity of the user is required to be authenticated, determining the time period since the identity of the user was last authenticated, and enabling the requested operation by determining the type of operation being requested by the user and enabling the operation only if the in-dependence upon the determined time period is valid for the type of and the purpose of the requested operation requested by the user.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the identity of the user is authenticated using a pass phrase.

3. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the identity of the user is authenticated using biometric information.

4. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 comprising determining the time period since the identity of the user was last authenticated.

5. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the requested operation is enabled if the determined time period is less than or equal to a time period set by the user.

6. (original) A method according to claim 5 wherein the time period set for one type of operation is a multiple of a time period set for another type of operation.

7. (original) A method according to claim 5 wherein the time period for a type of operation is arranged to expire upon completion of the immediately preceding operation of the same type.

8. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein categories of operations used to determine the purpose for a requested operation are set by the user.

9. (Previously presented) A computing device arranged to operate in accordance with a method as claimed in claim 1.

10. (original) A computing device according to claim 9 comprising a mobile phone.

11. (Previously presented) Computer software arranged to cause a computing device to operate in accordance with a method as claimed in claim 1.